

Message Text

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20

ORIGIN OES-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 /021 R

DRAFTED BY:OES:ENP:PO:CRNELSON

APPROVED BY:OES:CAHERTER

NEA:AFN:LMURRAY

OES:MHAELTON

AID:PHA:POP:RR

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P 202126Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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FOR AMBASSADOR GREEN FROM NELSON OES

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM TUNIS DATED FEBRUARY 17, 1976

SENT SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 1100

FOR NEA/AFN LEWIS MURRAY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OCON TS

SUBJECT: FAILURE OF AVS CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS TO KEEP
APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA

1. AT THE END OF THE AVS CONFERENCE IN TUNIS, PROMINENT
PARTICIPANTS WERE INVITED TO CALL ON PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA
AT PALACE. AFTER TIME HAD BEEN SET FOR CALL, DR.
LURELL INFORMED THE TUNISIANS THAT GROUP WOULD NOT
CALL ON PRESIDENT SINCE THIS WOULD BE A "POLITICAL"
ACT AND AVS STRICTLY NON-POLITICAL.

2. I FIND DR. LUBELL'S REASONING ABSURD. AS YOU
KNOW, PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA HAS BEEN A WORK LEADER

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IN FIELD OF FAMILY PLANNING AND HAS TAKEN GREAT PRIDE

IN TUNISIA'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN THIS AREA. FURTHERMORE,
IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR TUNISIAN HEAD OF STATE TO
RECEIVE ORGANIZERS OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES
HELD HERE, BOTH AS REFLECTION OF TRADITIONAL
HOSPITALITY AS WELL AS GESTURE OF INTERNATIONAL
GOOD WILL. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA
WAS UPSET AT REFUSAL OF LUBELL TO MEET WITH HIM
AND DOES NOT UNDERSTAND REASON. NEITHER DO CONCERNED
TUNISIAN OFFICIALS.

3. I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD CALL
DR. LUBELL AND SUGGEST THAT HE WRITE TO PRESIDENT
BOURGUIBA IN SUCH A WAY AS TO SMOOTH THIS MATTER
OVER. SINCE THE USG FUNDED THE CONFERENCE, IT IS
INCUMBENT UPON US TO TRY TO ASSUAGE BOURGUIBA'S
HURT FEELINGS.

4. IT WOULD ALSO BE ADVISABLE IN THE FUTURE FOR
AID TO ADVISE ITS CLIENTS TO SEEK THE ADVICE EITHER
OF THE AID MISSION DIRECTOR OR THE AMBASSADOR IN
MATTERS SUCH AS THIS.

5. FULL NAME AND ADDRESS IS AS FOLLOWS:

IRA LUBELL, M.D., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR
INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR
VOLUNTARY STERILIZATION, INC.
708 THIRD AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10617
TEL: 212-867-3114 SEELYE UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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